

PLAYS NEW OR REPRODUCED.

MR. SUTHERLAND'S FICTION FOR HENRIETTA CROSMAN.

Blanche Bates in "Under Two Flags," Elsie de Wolfe in "The Way of the World," and Mrs. Melville in "The House of the Shoguns."

The dramatic heroine introduced in "Joan of the Shoguns," at the Theatre Republic last night, was a New Hampshire girl of two centuries. Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland has written the play for Henrietta Crosmen's use, and so the author's intention that Joan should be a creature of the past was realized. The rôle suited the actress, but was not well placed in other respects, though the story provided a plethora of circumstances to fit the case. The maiden belonged to the English of the Shoguns. A young English refugee from the capture of London was saved by her from capture. Her ready ingenuity, cool courage and sincere devotion made her a character at once familiar and unusual, theatric and naturalistic, old in a general way but new in particular. Hide-and-seek romances, in which a girl of the common people baffles the pursuers of an aristocratic runaway, have been very numerous on the stage. She invariably becomes enamored of an aristocrat, and almost always, after elation of passion, the obstacles to their wedlock are overcome.

The first snag that roughens the current of love in this instance is the disrepute of the passionate and profligate wooer. The free manner of the girl has made him think that her conscience is careless. He couples a declaration of love with a suggestion that they may be intimate without marriage. Her grief at that is heart-breaking, but her resentment is energetic. She arraigns him so spiritedly that he feels his guilt and becomes an honest suitor. This is the part of the play that is not sufficiently correct for the purpose of a drama. Almost any one of them might be left out without leaving a gap in the plot.

This fault in Mrs. Sutherland's scenario is damaging and very distinctive in the prolixity and grandiloquence of her diction. She has not mastered the difficulty of making stage persons talk seemingly as they would in actual life, but really with a terse, condensed meaning in every sentence. The play is not sufficiently correct for the purpose of a drama. Almost any one of them might be left out without leaving a gap in the plot.

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mounting of Paul Potter's "Under Two Flags," Miss de Wolfe in "The Way of the World," and Mrs. Melville in "The House of the Shoguns."

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WATERBURY'S LOSS \$2,000,000

THIRTY-FIVE LARGE BUILDINGS GONE IN TWO FIRES.

Heart of the City Wiped Out—Scoville House Burned in a Second Blaze—Incendiary Work?—No Lives Lost—Few Persons Homeless—Help From Outdoors.

WATERBURY, Conn., Feb. 3.—Fire engines are still playing to-night on the lurking remnants of the great fire which broke out at 6:45 o'clock last evening and dawn to-day struck a disastrous blow at Waterbury's business interests. All told thirty-five buildings in the very heart of the business district of this city of 45,000 persons were wiped out and the total loss will not be far from \$2,000,000. More than one hundred different lines of business were destroyed and what the losses will be to the merchants involved by a loss of trade can only be guessed at.

It is not only the worst fire ever known in Waterbury but it was by all odds the worst ever known in Connecticut. There is one fortunate feature of the calamity, however, and that is that comparatively few are rendered homeless. With the exception of the two hotels, the Scoville and the Franklin, every building destroyed was devoted to business. In some of these business buildings families had apartments and of course were thrown out of their homes. Their belongings were small and in many cases the owners succeeded in getting away with at least part of them.

None of these people was compelled to call upon public charity and after a few hours shelter in the City Hall, where they were first rounded up, they made their way to the homes of friends where they are being properly cared for. Undoubtedly there will be more or less distress because many people have been thrown out of employment in the dead of winter. But all things considered the actual suffering caused by this calamity to Waterbury is and will be surprisingly small in view of the great havoc to property that was wrought.

Another remarkable and still more fortunate circumstance is the fact that so far as known not a single life was lost and nobody was seriously injured. From early evening of yesterday until this morning the heart of the business part of the city was a chaos of roaring flames and crashing walls. To add to it all, the night was one of the bitterest of the winter, with a howling gale sweeping through the streets and scattering the sparks and firebrands. That any part of the business region of the town was left standing and particularly that in all the wild confusion and uproar nobody was killed or injured is little short of miraculous.

The saving of the town from still further devastation due to the prompt response to the appeal for help which Mayor Kidd sent in to other towns, as soon as it became evident that the fire was hopelessly beyond the power of the local department to handle. Bridgeport, New Haven, Hartford, Winsted, Naugatuck, Torrington and even Providence, R. I., sent fire apparatus and forces of men to handle them as swiftly as special trains could get there.

The train from Torrington made the run of ten miles in eleven minutes. Other places were correspondingly prompt and as the local firemen began to be utterly exhausted with their terrible labors, the reinforcements came rattling in from all directions and were received at the railroad stations and along the streets as they went tearing to the scene of the fire with words of applause and cheers from the thousands of people who lined the sidewalks. Waterbury never knew such a walk as last night and never wants to know such another. It was only a small minority of the 45,000 people here who went to bed at all and of those who were up it was a still smaller minority that was not on the streets.

There were two distinct fires, the one having no connection whatever with the other. As related in THE SUN this morning, the first one began in the dry goods store of Reid & Hughes in the Franklin building, on Bank street. With this as a centre the flames spread in general directions north and west, but leaving buildings here and there in a capricious, bewildering way that made the work of the firemen to the last degree disheartening. This was owing to the uncertain nature of the violent gale which was blowing.

The wind began to develop queer freaks of shifting very early in the struggle. Its original direction was from the west, but it blew alternately from every quarter until it had just about boxed the compass. In its leaps and bounds the fire did queer things, in many cases skipping comparatively worthless and highly inflammable structures to seize upon and wipe out costly buildings by the side of them.

In fact it may be said that as a rule the flames spared the poor buildings and took the good ones. The fire in the Franklin building, on Bank street, was the first one. It was the Franklin building with the entire newspaper printing plant was one of the latest ones to go. It was totally destroyed, but the plucky newspapermen, who had a four-page handbill this afternoon headed "Waterbury American" and giving an excellent account of the fire. It gives the following list of buildings destroyed and the estimated losses.

Grand Street—Waterbury American Building, six buildings and contents, \$100,000; Bank Street—Jones & Morgan's and contents, \$100,000; Bronson building and contents, \$100,000; Reid & Hughes' and contents, \$100,000; Masonic Temple, \$100,000; Franklin building, in course of erection, \$20,000; Mrs. Nayden's building and contents, \$40,000; Turkish bath and contents, \$25,000; Platt building and contents, \$100,000; Greenberg's \$40,000; Buckner's \$50,000; Ryan & Fitzmaurice, \$50,000; old American building, \$100,000; McGrath buildings, \$50,000.

BLAST SHAKES THE WALDORF.

WINDOWS SMASHED, TWO MEN INJURED BY ROCK SHOWER.

Heavy Dynamite Explosion on the Site of the Old Stewart Mansion Opposite the Waldorf-Astoria, where a foundation is being excavated for the new building of the Knickerbocker Trust Company, a dynamite blast was exploded at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon, which shook the Waldorf and the neighboring buildings, showed big showers of rock over Fifth avenue, smashed windows and caused a panic in the throngs of pedestrians and carriages, which by the forethought of a watchman of another building nearby had been kept for the moment clear of the blast. The watchman himself, Morris Harnett of 271 West 113th street, received a fractured skull and may die. Ferdinand Holly of 73 West 100th street, a designer at work in a building opposite, was struck by a big piece of rock and his thigh was broken.

For several days a gang has been blasting rock in the northwest corner of the lot. The embankment had been covered for this blast, but it is thought that the softness of the rock was not properly judged on the side nearest Fifth avenue. Harnett is a watchman for Thompson, Starrett & Co., who are erecting a new building nearby. He practically cleared the block on Fifth avenue before warning of the blast was given and by his action he saved many from injury. When the blast was fired Harnett stood on the west side of the street near the excavation. There was a sudden rumble followed by an upheaval of rock. A big piece struck the watchman on the head, fracturing his skull and leaving him unconscious. The force of the explosion was diagonally across Fifth avenue toward Thirty-fifth street and a large plate glass window, valued at \$400, in the show window of the Orlay Enos Company, was smashed into a thousand pieces. Two lace curtains in the window were torn to pieces and a number of gas and lamp fixtures were damaged beyond repair.

Ferdinand Holly is a designer for Herter Bros., manufacturers of furniture at 360 Fifth avenue. He was at work on the third floor. He was struck on the head by a jagged piece of rock crashed through the window and struck him on the thigh, cutting the skin in two places and fracturing the bone. He was taken down to the main floor on the elevator and was removed to the New York Hospital.

Patron Black of the West Thirtieth street station was on Fifth avenue and thirty-third street, and saw the explosion. He was struck on the head by a piece of rock and was taken to the New York Hospital. The contractors who are doing the excavating are Clarence L. Smith & Co. of Eleventh avenue.

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